Free medical aid to school going students in Andhra Pradesh

2986. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to provide free medical aid and undertake distribution of Vitamin tablets particularly of Vitamin A to every student of Government schools in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) As per information furnished by the Government of Andhra Pradesh, school children are covered by a School Health Programme. Vitamin A is given to school children only for therapeutic purposes. A National Programme for prophylaxis against Vitamin A deficiency is under implementation. Under this programme five doses of Vitamin A solution are provided at six monthly intervals to children in the age group 9 months to 3 years.

Increase in budget for medical research

2987. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government budget for medical research in the country has been increased in the year 2002-2003; and

(b) if so, the funds provided for medical research and increase in the budget as compared to last year?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.